

The Cairo News

VOL. I. - NO. 169.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1836

PRICE 6d.

MORE TAX REFORMS.

THE government announced further tax reforms to take effect this year. As many of our readers will know, our humble ruler was once a meagre tax collector in Kavala; part of the Rumelia Eyalet of the Ottoman Empire. So, it comes as little surprise that the Khedive Muhammad Ali Pasha is pushing for more improvements of the tax system, and this recent announcement marks the latest development.

THE government administration in Lower Egypt is to be centralized and hundreds of clerks will be employed to fill the gaps in the tax system. The existing system has been called backwards and outdated as it strains under the pressure of collecting taxes, with an estimated £3,400 being lost each week due to inefficient bureaucracy.

NEW consumption taxes were also announced on services and tobacco, expected to bring in an extra £10,440 revenue per week and therefore filling the deficit of government revenue by a large margin. Experts have speculated that this could mean an increase in government spending to come, or perhaps further conflict with the Ottoman Sultan.

DEDICATED POLICE FORCE.

DEBATE CONTINUES

FURTHER details about the planned police force have been announced by the Citadel. The original intention to create the dedicated force was first revealed on January 23.

TODAY, it was stated that a public prosecutor's office will also be set up alongside the police force. There will also be new laws put in place to allow additional forms of evidence to be used in courts. Such evidence will also include the new concept of autopsy reports.

WHILE the idea of a dedicated police force has been generally accepted by most of the populace, there are those who oppose the idea of additional government interference in their lives. We approached the government for their response to this, but they declined to comment. Read some of our readers thoughts in the Letters section.

DIPLOMATIC UPDATE.

THE Egyptian diplomatic service has been reaching out to France, Russia, and Great Britain recently. Relations with France continue to be good as further promising students are sent there to study languages and military theory.

RELATIONS with Russia remain difficult but hope remains that they can be swayed to our side in future diplomatic overtures.

A diplomatic entourage was also sent to the Sherif of Hedjaz, as relations continue to be cold. Though Hedjaz was recaptured from the Saud's in 1805 there continues to be unrest in the region with some suggestion that Hedjaz may desire independence.



MAJOR-GENERAL BEAUFORT D'HAUTPOUL

THE DUEL

THE popularity of Major-General Charles-Marie-Napoleon de Beaufort d'Hautpoul and Brigadier-General Soliman al-Faransawi has descended to new lows following a major argument.

THESE two generals have been feuding for some time but events came to a new climax on January 29 when al-Faransawi insulted de Beaufort d'Hautpoul and challenged him to a duel. Such language was used that cannot be printed here.

IT is believed that the Khedive stepped in personally to stop them, stating that both of them are too important to lose and ordering them to settle their differences in a more civilized manner.

BOTH Generals hail from France and have served under Muhammad Ali for many years, while al-Faransawi also served under Napoleon Bonaparte at the battle of Waterloo. His name at birth was Joseph Sève, before he moved to Egypt and reverted to Islam.

THE 32-year-old de Beaufort d'Hautpoul once served as Aide-de-Camp under al-Faransawi but has now achieved a higher rank within the Army. While the older 48-year-old al-Faransawi is now responsible for training new recruits.

SOURCES close to the two Generals suggest al-Faransawi is jealous of de Beaufort d'Hautpoul's role and covets his position; believing himself to be more suited and much more experienced.

However, a statement later released by the Citadel said both men had their parts to play in the future of the Egyptian Armed Forces and relations had calmed between them.



BRIGADIER-GENERAL SOLIMAN AL-FARANSAWI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Editor, -As a private citizen definitely not connected with the ongoing national dispute over this law enforcement legislation, I, someone who is absolutely only a private citizen, have a few choice words I wish to write.

A dedicated police force is the best thing this country needs. For too long the peasantry have disobeyed the will of the Khedive. New work programs have been put in place to provide jobs for the peasants and to drive the Egyptian economy. But many peasants refuse to work where they're told to! Many run away, and shirk their responsibilities.

This new police force will ensure everyone follows the will of the law, for the greater good! -Yours, &c.,

M.A.

Dear Editor, -It is of great concern that I write to you with regard to the efforts to create a dedicated police force. The idea is entirely preposterous and unnecessary. I can assure you the good people of Egypt do not need such interference in their lives.

I know many peasants that work tirelessly in the fields to feed our great society. Already they break their backs in toil to the demands of the government. Already they are taxed enough, so how is the government to pay for such a frivolous and unwanted project? More taxes? Enough, I say. -Yours, &c.,

Enver Al-Nahhas

Dear Editor, -I once was a simple shopkeeper, and my fortune was lost to dastardly thieves. Though I have since remade my fortune, I wholly support a police force that will catch and punish such thieves. -Yours, &c.,

Halil Abd Al-Rahman